

REMARKS

Claims 2, 9, and 10 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 9, and 10 are currently amended. Claims 1, 3-8, and 11-12 are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The title of the invention has been amended to coincide with the title listed on the specification and Application Data Sheet originally filed with the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Oda (U.S. Pat. No. 6,542,624 B1; "Oda"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 3, and 11 have been cancelled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda and further in view of Proniewicz (U.S. Pat. No. 6,853,854 B1; "Proniewicz"). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Cleveland (U.S. Pat. No. 5,231,674; "Cleveland"). Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda and further in view of Tomono (U.S. Pat. No. 5,016,282;

"Tomono"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 4-8 and 12 have been cancelled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

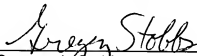
The Examiner states that claims 2, 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 2, 9 and 10 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2, 9 and 10 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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